Research and Development in Biotechnology

1626. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scientific institutions, universities and colleges engaged in research and development in bio-technology in each state in the country;

(b) how many of these have been sanctioned grants by Government for R&D in biotechnology; and

(c) the number of such institutions which are located in the State of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Under the aegis of various scientific agencies like CSIR, DST, DBT, Atomic Energy, Ministry of Health, ICMR and ICAR as also State level institutions and agricultural universities, a large number of them (about 225) are engaged on various aspects of research and development in biotechnology, which encompases the fields of agriculture, medical research, industry, environment etc. The research work generally covers traditional areas of botany, zoology, agriculture, veterinary sciences etc., since the area of bio-technology is relatively new and its application is highly knowledge intensive, particularly aspects of genetic engineering. These institutions receive grants from various scientific agencies and State level organisations. The Department of Biotechnology receives project proposals from various scientist and research institutions from all over country which are examined on the basis of peer review mechanisms, expert opinions and site visit Based on these, grants for R&D projects are sanctioned.

The number of such institutions located in the State of Madhya Pradesh is approximately 17 which includes universities, veterinary colleges and research laboratories of central agencies; these are located at Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore; Rewa; Sagar, Mhow, Jabalpur etc. These institutions are receiving government funding from some of the Central and State agencies and departments for research in related fields of biotechnology which is a new and emerging area.

Computerisation of Urdu

1627. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answers to Unstarred Questions 1683 and 1698 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1991 and state:

(a) whether any progress has been undertaken for computer analysis, education and research in Urdu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Graphics and Intelligence based Script Technology (GIST) developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, an autonomous Society under the Department of Electronics provides capability for Urdu interface with computers.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign visit of former development Commissioner (PI)

1628. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 304 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during each of his foreign visits Former Development Commissioner (PI) extracted money from companies in India and abroad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that expenses borne on him by HAL and IDPL have been objected to by the auditors which run into lakhs;

(c) if so, what are the details and what action has been taken so far;

(d) whether it is also a fact that his sister borne only a token of the expenses and rest were borne by the companies in USA; and

(e) what are the total expenses incurred and what are the expenses borne by his sister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No complaint in this regard has been received in this Department.

(b) As per information supplied by HAL and IDPL, no objection has been raised by the auditors on the expenditure borne on former Development Commissioner (PI)'s foreign visits.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) According to the information made available by the former Development Commissioner (PI), the expenses on transportation and his stay were borne by his sister who is a citizen of U.S.A.

Communications to M/s. Hoecht

1029. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of communications issued in respect of Supreme Court case of M/s. Hoechst after the receipt of Supreme Court Judgement; and

(b) when each communication was issued and what are the contents of each of these communications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Since the receipt of Supreme Court's judgement of May 1987, a number of communications have been issued to M|s. Hoechst asking the Company to furnish requisite details of production, sale and sale prices and|or for obtaining further clarifications|elucidations on the date supplied by it, for the purpose of determining its liabilities, in terms of the Supreme Court's judgement, in respect of all the 5 bulk drugs and formulations thereof, which were subject matter of the case. The time and labour involved in compiling all those communications will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Orders for export of Maruti cars

1630. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Limited have secured big orders for exports of different models of their vehicles, particularly 'Maruti-800' from different countries this year, especially USSR;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of vehicles to be exported and their cost; and

(c) the extent to which the same have been complied with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Around 35,000 vehicles are planned to be exported during 1991-92 mainly to Hungary, Yugoslavia, Italy, France, Poland and USSR.

(c) During 1991-92 MUL has exported 9,034 vehicles till 5.9.1991.